

Blues face a crucial test at Enfield



GEORGE BORG
... fitness doubt

Ninth away win

WYCOMBE Wanderers, top of the Berger Isthmian League for the first time in more than four years, face a really stiff test to remain there when they visit reigning champions Enfield in a real 'crunch' encounter tomorrow (Saturday).

With Enfield joining the Alliance Premier League next season, this could be the last meeting between the two clubs who have dominated the Isthmian scene for more than a decade.

How appropriate it is that both teams should be striving for the championship, along with favourites Slough Town who are Wycombe's greatest rivals of all.

The Blues went top of the

Preview by **MICHAEL KNOX**

league for the first time since January 1, 1977, when they thrashed struggling Dulwich 4-1 at Loakes Park on Saturday, with goals from Gary Toll, Howard Kennedy, Terry Glynn and Steve Long.

Manager Mike Keen views this crucial match with Enfield in a positive fashion. "This is our chance to prove that we have every right to be at the top. We've battled our way to the top, now it's our job to try and stay there."

Injuries

Defeat for either side would seriously damage their Premier Division championship hopes, especially as Slough, who lost at Tooting on Saturday, have games in hand on both their rivals. They have a potentially dif-

ficult trip to rejuvenated Hendon.

But Wycombe's hopes of a good result at Southbury Road could depend on how quickly their casualties recover.

Keith Mead, Terry Glynn and George Borg all suffered strains or knocks in the Dulwich match and none of them trained on Tuesday night. There is better news, however, about Paul Birdseye who appears to have recovered from bruising caused in a tobogganing accident.

Jimmy Jacobs, who deputised so well for Birdseye at right back could find himself switching flanks if Borg fails a fitness test, while Phil Bycroft is the obvious deputy for Mead.

The greatest concern is over leading scorer Glynn,

who must be desperately keen to play against his old club. He will make every effort to be fit.

Enfield have problems of their own — the chief one being the departure of striker Peter Burton on loan to Division One side Billericay.

Burton, a tall lanky striker who played such a vital role in Enfield's memorable FA Cup run, told manager Eddie McCluskey that he would be unable to play in the Alliance next season because of the travelling involved.

Mr McCluskey, with an eye on building a side for next season, said the striker could go. So the club seem not to be putting all their efforts into retaining the title.

Experience

For last week's Middlesex Senior Cup tie at Wembley, left out several of his regulars such as John Bishop, Ronnie Howell and Noel Ashford.

He brought in Lee Holmes, David Flint and John McCombe, while playing defender John Tone in midfield. The side won 1-0 but it seems likely that the manager will fall back on experience for the Wycombe game.

Wycombe's scheduled friendly against Chelsea on Tuesday night had to be postponed because of the waterlogged pitch. Groundsman Jock Sheppard likened it to a 'paddy-field.' The clubs are trying to rearrange another date.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	35	19	8	8	63	39	55
Slough	32	18	10	4	53	27	64
Enfield	33	17	8	8	62	40	59
Harrow	34	15	9	10	50	38	54
Sutton	31	14	10	7	57	44	52
Dagenham	33	13	9	11	62	54	48
Leytonstone	30	13	8	9	53	42	47
Bromley	33	13	8	12	61	53	47
Hayes	32	14	5	13	31	37	47
Staines	34	12	8	14	48	48	44
Hendon	33	12	7	14	50	51	43
Dulwich	34	11	10	13	51	54	43
*Berkham	37	11	12	14	50	60	43
Tooting	36	12	5	19	39	48	41
Carshalton	31	12	4	15	43	59	40
Harlow	32	9	12	11	39	46	39
Leatherhead	35	8	13	14	28	41	37
Walthamstow	31	11	4	16	33	50	37
Hitchin	30	9	8	13	43	39	36
Boreham W	32	9	8	15	40	55	36
Woking	34	10	5	19	34	55	35
Croydon	30	8	15	9	28	29	33

* 2 points deducted.

Addlestone Res 1,
Wycombe Wands Res 4

TWO goals in each half took Wycombe Wanderers Reserves to their ninth Suburban League victory in 12 away matches, at Addlestone on Saturday.

Wycombe, whose poor home form has cost them a chance of lifting the Northern Division title in their first season, recovered from a shaky start to take a two goal lead by half-time.

Addlestone, fielding a strengthened side, began well and only a fine save by Chris Way prevented them taking the lead.

Troubled by an effective off-side trap, Wanderers eventually took the lead in the 28th minute when Nick Shrimpton netted with a low shot following good work by Andy Hunt and Terry Scott. Scott then made it 2-0 from Mark Richardson's cross.

Sent off

Addlestone's young goalkeeper Tony Arrow was sent off for dissent in the 55th minute after referee Mr Roberts had awarded Wycombe a penalty. A new 'keeper could not stop Scott adding his second from the spot.

The game went into sharp decline with Addlestone's ten men battling away effectively. They eventually scored a penalty of their own after Ian Rundle had been penalised for handball. But Wycombe had the final say when Hunt scored the fourth from outside the area, following Scott's inch-perfect pass.

WYCOMBE: C. Way, T. Lee, G. Marshall, I. Rundle, P. Bycroft, M. Richardson, T. Mason, S. Dexter, A. Hunt, T. Scott, N. Shrimpton. Subs: G. Collier, K. Stanbridge (not used).

SUBURBAN LEAGUE NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Harrow	22	17	3	2	65	23	37
Staines	25	16	2	7	57	20	34
Farnborough	23	14	8	3	55	24	34